

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
MARCH PLANTING INTENTIONS
GRAIN & RICE STOCKS
PRICES REC'D BY FARMERS**

LOUISIANA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during February totaled 1.7 million pounds, up 13 percent from January, but was unchanged from the previous year.

There were 1,900 head of **cattle** slaughtered during February, down 100 head from January, and 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 811 pounds, down 15 pounds from the previous month, but 8 pounds above February 1999. Total live weight at 1.55 million pounds was down 4 percent from January, and 9 percent below a year ago.

Calves slaughtered during February totaled 1,100 head, up 200 head from both January and the previous year. Live weight averaged 490 pounds, unchanged from January, but 22 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight at 525 thousand pounds was up 13 percent from January, and 30 percent above a year ago.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during February totaled 3,700 head, up 800 head from January, and 100 head above February 1999. Average live weight was 223 pounds, up 9 pounds from January, but 7 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 831 thousand pounds, 35 percent above the previous month, but virtually unchanged from a year ago.

The total number of **sheep** slaughtered during February was 500 head, up 300 head from January, and 200 head above the previous year. Live weight averaged 118 pounds, up 26 pounds from the previous month, and 1 pound above the previous year. #

UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.77 billion pounds in February, up 7 percent from the previous record high for February of 3.54 billion pounds produced in 1999.

February 1999 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. February 2000 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Comparing February 2000 with February 1999

Beef production, at 2.17 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year, and 6 percent higher than the previous record high for February set in 1996. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, up 8 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds.

Veal production totaled 18.0 million pounds, 6 percent above February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 95.1 thousand head, down 5 percent from February 1999. The average live weight was 32 pounds above last year, at 318 pounds.

Pork production, totaled 1.55 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous record high for February set last year. Hog kill totaled 8.07 million head, 2 percent above 1999. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 261 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20.0 million pounds, was equal to the previous record low for February set a year ago. Sheep slaughter totaled 293 thousand head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

January-February red meat production was 7.5 billion pounds, 2 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 4 percent higher than last year, veal was 2 percent higher, pork was unchanged, and lamb & mutton was up 3 percent. #

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

ITEMS	LOUISIANA					UNITED STATES			
	January	February		January-February		February		January-February	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Number, thousand head					Number, thousand head			
Cattle	2.0	2.1	1.9	4.1	3.9	2,722.5	2,937.1	5,683.8	5,873.9
Calves	0.9	0.9	1.1	2.3	2.0	99.8	95.1	205.1	187.7
Hogs	2.9	3.6	3.7	6.8	6.6	7,907.7	8,067.3	16,461.4	16,208.1
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	299.5	293.0	568.2	574.7
	Total live weight, thousand pounds					Total live weight, thousand pounds			
Cattle	1,612	1,703	1,549	3,185	3,161	3,324,180	3,598,357	6,936,824	7,208,513
Calves	463	405	525	1,047	988	28,511	30,190	57,837	59,038
Hogs	617	833	831	1,540	1,448	2,044,799	2,108,491	4,259,949	4,241,297
Sheep & Lambs	14	40	55	57	69	40,513	40,417	76,454	79,062
	Average live weight, pounds					Average live weight, pounds			
Cattle	826	803	811	777	811	1,221	1,225	1,220	1,227
Calves	490	468	490	455	494	286	318	282	314
Hogs	214	230	223	226	219	259	261	259	262
Sheep & Lambs	92	117	118	114	99	135	138	135	138
	Million pounds					Million pounds			
Red meat	1.5	1.7	1.7	3.3	3.2	3,537	3,767	7,369	7,552

LOUISIANA PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2000

As of March 1, 2000, Louisiana's farmers intended to plant significantly less acreage to soybeans, sorghum, and rice this year than last year. Cotton, corn, and sweet potato acreage will increase, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service.

These prospective plantings reflect the current economic and weather conditions as of March 1, 2000. Actual plantings could shift upward or downward based on conditions for the rest of the planting season. Acreage estimates will be updated on June 30, 2000.

Corn planted acreage was expected to total 400,000. If realized, corn planted acreage would be up 60,000 acres, or 18 percent, from last year.

Cotton growers intended to plant 690,000 acres. This total would be up 75,000 acres, or 12 percent, from last year.

Rice planted acreage was expected to decrease to 570,000, which would bring acreage down 50,000 acres, or 8 percent, from last year. Acres of long grain varieties was expected to total 540,000 acres. If realized, this would be a decrease of 45,000 acres, or 7 percent, from last year. Growers intended to plant 30,000 acres of medium grain varieties. If realized, this would be a drop of 5,000 acres, or 14 percent, from 1999.

Grain sorghum intentions indicate planted acreage will total 190,000, down 50,000 acres, or 21 percent, from 1999.

Soybean planted acreage was expected to drop 70,000 acres, or 7 percent from last year's acreage, to 950,000 acres. If realized, this will be the lowest soybean planted acreage in the state in 34 years.

Sweet potato planted acreage was expected to increase by 1,000 acres, or 4 percent, to 25,000 acres this year. If realized, this will be the highest sweet potato acreage since 1983, when 25,000 acres were planted.

Winter wheat sown last fall was estimated at 110,000 acres, unchanged from last year, but 10,000 acres above the December 1, 1999, estimate.

Hay acres to be harvested in 2000 was projected at 390,000, which would be up 3 percent from 1999.

Sugarcane acreage for harvest will not be estimated until June 30, 2000.

UNITED STATES PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Corn growers intend to plant 77.9 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2000, up 1 percent from 1999, but down 3 percent from 1998. Expected acreage is down in Nebraska, the Great Lakes region, and mid-Atlantic States due mostly to dry conditions. Intended acreage is up in the central Corn Belt, northern Plains, Southeast, and West.

Farmers intend to plant 25 percent of their corn acreage with varieties developed using biotechnology. If these intentions are realized, 18 percent of the U.S. corn acreage will be planted with

insect resistant only varieties containing bacillus thuringiensis (Bt.). Five percent of the acreage will be planted with herbicide resistant varieties developed using biotechnology. Stacked gene varieties, those containing both insect and herbicide resistance, will be planted on 2 percent of the corn acreage.

Sorghum growers intend to plant 8.98 million acres for all purposes during 2000. This is down three percent from last year, and seven percent below the 1998 total. Of the 24 States that estimates sorghum acreage, eight States indicated increases, nine States indicated decreases, and one State indicated no change. Six States are new to the program and have no history. Texas and Kansas indicated the greatest decreases, 350,000 acres and 200,000 acres, respectively. Nebraska indicated the greatest increase, 150,000 acres. The percentage of acres planted increased the most in Southern States, where Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina all indicated increases of over 20 percent.

Soybean producers intend to plant 74.9 million acres in 2000, up 1 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area for soybeans on record. Of the 31 soybean producing States, producers in 10 States intend to plant more acres this year, while producers in 13 States intend to plant fewer acres than in 1999. Seven States are unchanged from the previous year. West Virginia acreage estimates are included for the first time. Producers intend to plant 52 percent of the soybean acreage to herbicide resistant varieties in 2000.

Rice growers intend to plant 3.40 million acres, 5 percent below a year ago. Of the six rice producing States, four intend to plant less acres of rice in 2000, while two States are expecting to plant more acres. Long grain acreage, representing 75 percent of the total, is down 8 percent from last year. Short grain acreage decreased 29 percent, while area planted to medium grain varieties was up 6 percent from a year ago.

Sweet potato growers intend to plant 93,700 acres of sweet potatoes this year, up fractionally from last year, and 7 percent more than 1998. Increased planted acres are expected in California and across the South from Texas to Mississippi. Reduced acreage is expected in Alabama and along the Atlantic Coast, where flooding occurred last summer. Acreage should be unchanged in Georgia and Virginia. Planted acreage will likely be down along the Atlantic coast because of problems with last year's disappointing crop. Acreage is expected to be off 17 percent in South Carolina, 10 percent in New Jersey, 6 percent in Alabama, and 3 percent in North Carolina. Weather and wildlife damage along with urban sprawl are blamed for acreage drop offs in New Jersey. There has been little field transplanting so far, but will pick up in April.

All hay producers expect to harvest 63.1 million acres of hay in 2000, down less than 1 percent from the 63.2 million acres harvested the previous year.

Cotton area planted to all cotton for 2000 is expected to total 15.6 million acres, 5 percent above last year. If realized, this would be the largest acreage since 1995, and the second largest since 1962. Upland acreage is expected to total 15.3 million acres, up 5 percent from 1999. All 17 Upland cotton producing States intend to increase acreage from last year. Growers intend to decrease their plantings of American-Pima cotton to 217,000 acres, down 25 percent from 1999. All American-Pima cotton producing States intend to decrease acreage from last year. Upland growers in the Delta States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) intend to plant 3.94 million acres, a 6 percent increase from last year.

MARCH 1, 2000 - PLANTING INTENTIONS

CROP	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES		
	1999	2000	% CHANGE	1999	2000	% CHANGE
	Thousand Acres			Thousand Acres		
Corn	340	400	+ 18	77,431	77,881	+ 1
All Cotton	615	690	+ 12	14,855	15,558	+ 5
Rice	620	570	-8	3,581	3,395	-5
Sorghum	240	190	-21	9,288	8,979	-3
Soybeans	1,020	950	-7	73,780	74,871	+ 1
Sweet potatoes	24	25	+ 4	93.3	93.7	---
All Wheat	110	110	---	62,814	61,664	-2
Hay 1/	380	390	+ 3	63,160	63,052	---

1/Harvested Intentions

UNITED STATES GRAIN STOCKS

Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2000, totaled 5.61 billion bushels, down 2 percent from March 1, 1999. Of the total stocks, 3.30 billion bushels were stored on farms, down 8 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 2.31 billion bushels, were up 9 percent from a year ago. The December 1999-February 2000 quarter indicated disappearance is 2.42 billion bushels, 3 percent above the disappearance of 2.36 billion bushels during the same period a year earlier.

Grain Sorghum stored in all positions on March 1, 2000, totaled 225 million bushels, up 1 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 173 million bushels, are up 7 percent from last year and account for 77 percent of the total stocks. On-farm stocks, at 51.7 million bushels, are down 15 percent from last year. The December 1999-February 2000 quarter disappearance from all positions is 123 million bushels, up 9 percent from last year.

Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2000, totaled 1.40 billion bushels, down 4 percent from March 1, 1999. On-farm stocks, at 730 million bushels, were down 10 percent from the same period a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 667 million bushels, were 4 percent higher than March 1, 1999. Indicated disappearance for the December 1999-February 2000 quarter totaled 786 million bushels, up 8 percent from the same quarter in 1999.

All Wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2000, totaled 1.41 billion bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 423 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 989 million bushels, are up 1 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 1999 - February 2000 quarter disappearance is 473 million bushels, up 6 percent from the same period in 1999.#

LOUISIANA RICE STOCKS

Rough rice stocks reported in all positions on March 1, 2000, totaled 6.77 million cwt, down 24 percent from March 1, 1999. On-farm stocks of rice are estimated at 2.6 million cwt, up 8 percent from the previous year. The indicated December 1999 - February 2000 disappearance from all positions totaled 6.5 million cwt.#

GRAIN STOCKS

ITEM	LOUISIANA		UNITED STATES	
	March 1		March 1	
	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Thousand Bushels		Thousand Bushels	
Corn				
On Farm	1/	1/	3,570,000	3,300,000
Off Farm 2/	<u>14,304</u>	<u>13,135</u>	<u>2,128,428</u>	<u>2,305,529</u>
TOTAL	1/	1/	5,698,428	5,605,529
Sorghum				
On Farm	1/	1/	60,900	51,700
Off Farm 2/	<u>2,560</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>161,536</u>	<u>173,368</u>
TOTAL	1/	1/	222,436	225,068
Soybeans				
On Farm	1/	1/	815,000	730,000
Off Farm 2/	<u>6,712</u>	<u>6,826</u>	<u>642,338</u>	<u>667,324</u>
TOTAL	1/	1/	1,457,338	1,397,324
All Wheat				
On Farm	1/	1/	471,220	423,180
Off Farm 2/	<u>13,629</u>	<u>7,222</u>	<u>979,191</u>	<u>989,201</u>
TOTAL	1/	1/	1,450,411	1,412,381

1/Not published. 2/Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

RICE STOCKS

United States					
Date	-----1999-----				-----2000-----
	March 1	August 1	October 1 1/	December 1	March 1
	Rough Rice (Domestic Units -1,000 Cwt)				
On Farms or Farm Whses	22,290	1,560	---	50,762	27,200
In Mills and Attached Whses	9,745	5,516	236	11,112	11,787
In Whses not Attached to Whses 2/	47,409	9,432	1,176	78,012	50,969
In Ports or In Transit	806	118	---	67	269
Total All Positions	80,250	16,626	1,412	139,953	90,225
	Milled Rice (Domestic Units -1,000 Cwt)				
On Farms or Farm Whses	---	---	---	---	---
In Mills and Attached Whses	3,700	3,320	413	3,679	3,526
In Whses not Attached to Whses 2/	172	103	---	185	128
In Ports or In Transit	472	444	---	721	916
Total All Positions	4,344	3,777	413	4,585	4,570
Louisiana					
	Rough Rice (Domestic Units -1,000 Cwt)				
On Farms or Farm Whses	2,400	3/	---	4,500	2,600
In Mills and Attached Whses	1,428	3/	---	2,249	1,533
In Whses not Attached to Whses 2/	4,931	3/	---	8,552	2,584
In Ports or In Transit	149	3/	---	179	55
Total All Positions	8,908	3/	---	15,480	6,772

1/California only. 2/Includes small amounts stored on farms. 3/Not Published.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP

The All Farm Products Index of **Prices Received** in March was 96 based on 1990-92= 100, up 4.3 percent from the February index. Higher prices for lettuce, cattle, broilers, and broccoli more than offset price decreases for eggs, strawberries, celery, and apples. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of strawberries, milk, broilers, and tomatoes more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges. These marketing changes accounted for one point of the March index increase.

Compared with March 1999, the All Farm Products Index was unchanged. Price decreases from March 1999 for milk, oranges, eggs, and rice offset price increases for hogs, cattle, lettuce, and calves.

PRICES PAID INDEX UP

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 120 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 0.8 percent from February, and 4.3 percent above March 1999. Higher prices in March for feed concentrates, complete feeds, nitrogen materials, and gasoline more than offset lower prices for feeder cattle and mixed fertilizers.

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AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

ITEM	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES		
	ENTIRE MONTH			ENTIRE MONTH		PRELIMINARY
	March 1999	February 2000	March 2000 1/	March 1999	February 2000	March 2000 1/
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	4.70	4.92	5.24	4.61	4.79	4.87
Rice, per cwt	8.66	5.46	5.54	8.93	5.98	5.99
Upland Cotton, per	.551	.432	2/ .454	.551	.459	2/ .478
Hay, all, baled, per ton	N/A	N/A	N/A	79.00	72.60	74.80
Beef Cattle, per cwt	43.90	50.10	53.40	62.40	67.60	69.30
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	68.80	85.00	88.00	65.50	71.20	72.80
Cows, per cwt	34.20	36.50	40.00	35.20	37.10	38.60
Calves, per cwt	80.60	100.00	106.00	87.30	105.00	107.00
Broilers, live, per pound	N/A	N/A	N/A	.358	.335	.349
Eggs All, per dozen	N/A	N/A	N/A	.679	.686	.574
All Milk, per cwt 3/	18.10	4/	4/	15.00	11.80	11.80

1/Mid-month; 2/Based on sales during the first half of the month; 3/Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. 4/Monthly estimate discontinued January 2000. NA = Not Available

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